

Message Text

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ACTION SSM-05

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARA 3.)

FOR SSM

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: VISIT BY MIKE KUBIC, NEWSWEEK

1. ON JULY 31, MIKE KUBIC, NEWSWEEK'S BRUEAU CHIEF IN JERUSALEM, VISITED SFM, ACCOMPANIED BY AN ISRAELI PHOTO-GRAPHER. DURING HIS FIVE-HOUR VISIT HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE DIRECTOR, TOURED THE BASE, AND VISITED THE GIDDI EAST WATCH STATION.

2. MR. KUBIC APPEARED TO HAVE THREE PURPOSES IN MAKING THE VISIT:

A) TO SEE THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES IN THE EVENT AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IS HELD. IN VIEW OF RECENT SPECULATION IN THE PRESS, THIS WAS CLEARLY HIS PRIMARY REASON FOR COMING. THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT SFM HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE THE MISSION FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AS A CONFERENCE AT SFM IS PRESUMABLY ONE OF THE OPTIONS, HE DECIDED, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY PRUDENT MANAGER WOULD, TO MAKE CERTAIN CONTINGENCY PREPARATIONS SUCH AS MINOR PAINTING AND GENERAL SPRUCING UP--THINGS THAT HAD BEEN PLANNED IN ANY CASE.

B) TO SEE WHAT CHANGES HAD OCCURRED SINCE HIS LAST VISIT. HE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN TO SFM TWICE BEFORE. THE RECENTLY INSTALLED SENSOR DISPLAY BOARD IN THE COM/OPS

CENTER AND THE REMOTE IMAGING SYSTEM WERE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO HIM. HE SAID HE DID NOT DETECT ANY CHANGE IN THE APPEARANCE OF THE CAMP.

C) TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVATIONS OF SFM VOLUNTEERS. HE HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION FROM HIS EARLIER VISITS THAT HIGH SALARIES ARE THE OVERRIDING REASON WHY PEOPLE ARE ATTRACTED TO SFM. DURING HIS TOUR, HE INTERVIEWED ABOUT TEN EMPLOYEES AND SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED AT THE OTHER MOTIVES HE ENCOUNTERED. WHILE NO ONE DENIED THE FINANCIAL REWARDS, EVERYONE HE SPOKE TO--WITHOUT EXCEPTION--POINTED TO SUCH OTHER INCENTIVES AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAVEL, BEING IN A UNIQUE PLACE WHERE HISTORY IS BEING MADE, A CHANCE TO GET A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, OR SAVING A NEST-EGG TO CONTINUE EDUCATION UPON COMPLETION OF TOUR. DESPITE PERSISTENT QUESTIONING, NO ONE MENTIONED ANY MAJOR DISSATISFACTIONS WITH LIFE AT SFM.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TOUR, MR. KUBIC INDICATED THAT HIS STORY WOULD BE PUBLISHED ONLY IN THE EVENT A CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE.

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